

Excerpts from the Interrogation of YONAI, Mitsumasa
Conducted 15 May 1946. (Exhibit # 3831)

- Q. What reasons did HATA, Shunroku put forward to support his views?
- A. I don't know by what concrete motives the military circles were guided.
- Q. But you discussed this matter with HATA, Shunroku?
- A. I did not discuss this matter with HATA. I only know that general opinion held by military circles was that my Cabinet was weak.
- Q. It is improbable that there were no discussions on this matter between you, as a Premier and HATA, as a Minister of War, the more so because among other reasons which led to HATA's resignation, were the misunderstandings with you as a Premier. Please revive in your memory the contents of your talks with HATA, Shunroku.
- A. I cannot remember now the contents of talks which took place between the Minister of War and myself, at that time, but I can tell you about general vein of the army thought. The military circles at that time demanded a conclusion of a treaty between GERMANY and JAPAN and Minister of War HATA, Shunroku was unable to resist this pressure.

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- Q. Who among the members of your Cabinet was particularly insistent on conclusion of treaty with GERMANY?
- A. Among the members of my Cabinet, nobody insisted on the necessity of concluding a treaty with GERMANY.
- Q. What about HATA, Shunroku?
- A. HATA did not express his personal opinion but that of the Army. At that time nobody spoke openly about conclusion of alliance with GERMANY and HATA also did not openly express his opinion.
- Q. How then could you understand each other?
- A. HATA did not talk concretely about treaty with GERMANY, but I understood well that the atmosphere in the army was very favorable for conclusion of treaty between JAPAN and GERMANY.
- Q. If HATA did not speak a single word about that how then did you know that atmosphere in the army was very favorable for the conclusion of a military alliance between JAPAN and GERMANY?
- A. I knew that army held the opinion that it was necessary to have an alliance with GERMANY even at the time when HIRANUMA's Cabinet was actively advocating the conclusion of this alliance. Therefore, although HATA did not talk to me in any definite form about this matter, I, nevertheless, knew the feelings of the army.

Q. Perhaps HATA was also against the conclusion of this alliance?

A. I cannot say exactly whether HATA was against this alliance.

Q. It is improbable that HATA did not define his position on the question of conclusion of a treaty with GERMANY during all the time he was in your Cabinet. The question of the conclusion of a treaty was debated at the conference of four Ministers as well as at the meetings of Cabinet. On what side was HATA during the debates of this question?

A. When my Cabinet was in power the question of the conclusion of treaty between JAPAN and GERMANY was not debated either at the meetings of Cabinet itself or at the conferences of four Ministers and HATA, therefore, had no opportunity to officially express his opinion on this question.

* Excerpt from IPS Doc. 3333 (Excerpt from Exh. 3831)

辯護側書證第二九九二號
法廷證第三八一

一九四六年五月十五日米内光政訊問書拔萃

問 畑俊六ハ彼ノ見解ヲ支持スル爲メニ如何ナル理由ヲ述ベマシタカ。

答 私ハ軍部が如何ナル具體的動機ニ依リ動カサレテ居ツタカ存ジマセン。

問 然シ貴下ハ此ノ問題ヲ畑俊六ト論議シタノデセウ。

答 私ハ此ノ問題ヲ畑俊六ト論議シマセンデシタ。私ハ陸軍部ノ一般ノ意見ハ

私ノ内閣ガ弱体デアルト云フ事シカ知リマセン。

問 此ノ問題ニ關シ首相タル貴下ト陸相タル畑トノ間ニ議論ガ無カッタト

云フ事ハアリ得ベキ事デハアリマセヌ、畑ノ辭職ノ原因トナツタ也ノ

理由ノ中ニ首相タル貴下トノ間ニ誤解ガアツタトスレバ猶更デス。ド

ウゾ畑俊六トノ談話ノ内容ヲ思ヒ出シテ下サイ。

答 私ハ當時陸相ト私トノ間ニ交サレタ談話ノ内容ヲ今思ヒ出セマセンガ

陸軍ノ思潮ノ大体ノ筋道ハ貴下ニ申上ゲラレマス。

當時ノ軍部ハ日獨間ニ於ケル條約締結ヲ要求シテ居リ、陸軍大臣畑俊六ハ此ノ點ニ反抗スルコトハ出來マセンデシタ。

貴下ノ内閣ノ關係ノ中デ獨逸トノ條約締結ヲ誰ガ特ニ主張シマシタカ。

私ノ内閣ノ關係ノ中デハ誰モ獨逸トノ條約ヲ主張シタ者ハ居リマセンデシタ。

畑俊六ハドウデシタカ。

畑ハ自己個人ノ意見ヲ陳ベルコトヲセズ陸軍ノ意向ヲ述べマシタ。當時誰モ獨逸トノ同盟締結ヲ公然ト申ス者ナク、畑モ亦彼ノ意見ヲ公然ト申シマセンデシタ。

ソレナレバドウシテオ互ヒノ思フ處ガ分ツタノデスカ。

獨逸トノ條約ニ關シテハ畑ハ具體的ニハ語リマセンデシタ。然シ私ハ軍部内ノ空氣ガ日獨間ノ條約締結ニ非常ニ贊成デアルト云フ事ガヨク分リマシタ。

問 答 問

答 問

若シ畑ガソレニ就テ一言モ言ハナカツタラ然ラバ如何ニシテ貴
下ハ軍部ノ空氣ガ日獨軍事同盟ノ締結ニ贊成ナル事ガ日獨軍事同盟
ノ締結ニ贊成デアル事ガ分ツタノデスカ。
私ハ平沼内閣ガ積極的ニ此ノ同盟締結ヲ主張シテ居ツタ時ニ既ニ軍部
ガ獨逸ト同盟ヲ結ブコトヲ必要トスル意見デアルコトヲ知リマシタ。
故ニ此ノ問題ニ關シ畑ガ何等具體的ノ形デ私ニ語ツタコトハアリマセ
ンデシタガ私ハソレデモ陸軍ノ感情ヲ知ツテ居ツタノデアリマス。
多分畑モ此ノ同盟締結ニハ反對ダツタノデセウネ。
私ハ畑ガ此ノ同盟ニ反對デアツタカドウカハハツキリトハ申セマセン。
畑ガ貴下ノ内閣ニ居ツタ間中獨逸ト條約締結ノ問題ニ關スル自分ノ立
場ヲ明ラカニシナカツタト云フ事ハアリ得ベキコトデハアリマセン。
條約締結ノ問題ハ關聯デハ勿論、四相會議デ論議サレテ居リマス。此
ノ問題ノ討論中畑ハドチラノ側ニ與シマシタカ。

答

私ノ内閣ガ政權ヲ取ツテ居リマシタ時ハ日獨條約締結ノ問題ハ閣議デモ四相會議デモ論議サレタコトナク、從ツテ畑俊六ハ此ノ問題ニ關シ職務上彼ノ意見ヲ述ベル機會ハアリマセンデシタ。